

Touzinsky takes top spot in 14th Trans, Brown moves to SETAF



Lt. Col. David Touzinsky, incoming commander for the 14th Transportation Battalion, receives the unit's guidon from Col. Joyce Di Marco, commander, 1st Transportation Movement Control Agency, during the change of command ceremony held on Hoekstra Field Sept. 9. Lt. Col. Charles Brown (right), who assumed command of the battalion in June 2003, will become the chief of transformation for SETAF. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC)

By Spc. Justin Nieto SETAF Public Affairs

Lt. Col. David Touzinsky assumed command of the 14th Transportation Battalion (MC) from Lt. Col. Charles Brown during a rainy change of command ceremony Sept. 9 on Hoekstra Field.

Although Brown is leaving the battalion, he will not be leaving Vicenza. His new assignment will be the SETAF chief of transformation.

As the new commander, Touzinsky will deploy to the battalion's downrange location at Bagram, Afghanistan.

"The 14th Trans has a long and time-honored history," said Col. Joyce Di Marco, commander of the 1st Transportation Movement Control Agency, during the ceremony. "Ranging from World War II to the global war on terrorism, the 14th Trans has kept things moving."

As the rain subsided, Brown took the podium and addressed his Soldiers for the last time before moving on.

"To all the 14th Trans team members, Soldiers, [Department of the Army] civilians and local national employees: Let me praise you once more," said Brown. "You continued the 14th Transportation Battalion legacy as the most decorated transportation unit in our Army."

Brown went on to thank his friends and family, then gave way to the incoming commander, Touzinsky.

"It is with great honor that I stand here today, ready to lead the great men and women comprising the 14th Transportation Battalion," said Touzinsky.

"We are a nation at war and the success of our war-fighting forces weighs heavily on the ability of the combat service support Soldiers to execute their jobs," said Touzinsky. "And the 14th Transportation Battalion plays a major role in the global war on terrorism by providing crucial support to our combat troops."

Touzinsky entered the Army in 1988 after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. He has a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Touro University. He began his Army career as an Armor Officer. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, Airborne and Ranger Training and the Transportation Officer Advance Course.

Touzinsky served in a variety of command and staff positions throughout his career that include tank platoon leader and tank company executive officer, 8th Infantry Division; battalion plans officer and S4, 11th Transportation Battalion; company commander, 71st Transportation Battalion; operations officer, 69th Signal Battalion; officer in charge, U.S. Army Europe Deployment Processing Center, 29th Support Group; battalion executive officer, 191st Ordnance Battalion; brigade S3, 1st TMCA; chief, Surface Industry Branch, U.S. Transportation Command.

His overseas contingency operations include deployments to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Haiti, and Macedonia.

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IMA-Europe MWR announces **Europe Recreation Awards**

IMA-Europe Public Affairs Office

Press Release

Heidelberg, GE — Twenty Installation Management Agency-Europe Morale, Welfare, and Recreation operations and individuals will be recognized for outstanding recreation programming at an awards presentation for the 2005 IMA-E Recreation Awards program during the upcoming 2005 Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

The awards recognize the outstanding individuals and organizations providing noteworthy recreation activities in IMA-Europe installations and supporting continued dedicated service to Soldiers and families.

Europe region area support group MWR communities coordinated submissions and judged the best among their responding base support battalion or area support team operations within each defined discipline.

These local selections were packaged and forwarded to IMA-Europe MWR for competition on a regional level.

The submission packages were reviewed by a panel of IMA-Europe recreation professionals and evaluated under a strict methodology.

The following organizations within the 22nd Area Support Group area of operations have been selected as this year's winners:

Outstanding Recreation Program Auto Skills

> Medium size: 22nd ASG, Vicenza, Italy

Outstanding Recreation Program Entertainment

Medium size:

22nd ASG, Vicenza, Italy **Outstanding Recreation Program**

Outdoor Recreation

Small size:

22nd AST Livorno, Italy

Nomination packets for the Army MWR Europe top winners were sent on for competition in the 2005 Army-level Recreation Awards program.

Europe-based MWR recreation programs dominated these Army-wide awards, winning top recognition in 10 out of 22 of the overall categories of Outstanding Army Recreation Programs and demonstrating that IMA-E award winning programs continue to provide some of the best MWR recreation programming available in the Army.

These 2005 Army-level Recreation Award winners will be announced Friday at the IMA-E Recreation Awards at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg and will be recognized in October during a recreation industry conference in the states.

Protecting your church

The 22nd Area Support Group Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life," by Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation, which they can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Maj.) Leon Kircher

22nd Area Support Group Family Life Chaplain

"God Wants Unity, Not Uniformity..."

How often have you heard the comment: "I don't attend church because it's full of hypocrites" or "all they care about is money." It's also full of people who do a lot of other things they shouldn't be doing. What makes church different is that it is full of people who know there are issues in their lives that need addressing, and they are looking for an answer to help them through it. In this chapter, Rick Warren talks about the unity of the church and how we are called to protect it.

When the unity of a church is destroyed, you rip the heart out of those who believe. So it is of paramount concern to God that this unity is protected. Too often, we focus on what divides us rather than what brings us together. As a result, people tend to believe their way is the only way and exclude others for their lack of "true" doctrine. It's like the preacher at the small store front church down on the corner who says, "if you don't believe like we do, you're all going to hell." Fear not my friends, heaven is much bigger than we realize, and there is more mercy in God than badness in us.

The differences we experience in church are largely cultural. And it is important for us to focus on what unites us rather than what separates us. God gave us different personalities, backgrounds, races and preferences, so we should value and enjoy these differences, not merely tolerate them. We should focus on what matters most – learning to love each other as God has loved us.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was imprisoned and eventually executed for his faith in WWII, suggests disillusionment with your church is a good thing because it destroys our false expectations of perfection. The sooner we give up the illusion that a church must be perfect in order to belong to it, the sooner we quit pretending and start admitting we're all imperfect and need grace. God wants unity, not uniformity.

Community i Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community. If you have an issue that you wish to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group website at www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly. The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next Community Action Council meeting is Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: Is there a set process for filing Temporary Lodging Allowance and helping Soldiers with no pay dues because of TLA? Is the process being followed? It seems like the Soldiers that are staying at the Ederle Inn are doing fine, but the Soldiers that are staying at Hotel Mary are having the problems. On June 10, I was still at the Ederle Inn and my TLA was paid only once. My TLA was paid for from June 10-14. When I went to find out what about the rest of my time staying at the Ederle Inn, housing said they have to wait until they get all the TLA forms in. Housing, Finance and the Ederle Inn need to be on the same sheet of music so they can all give the same answers to help Soldiers out.

Response from Directorate of Public Works and 208th Finance Battalion: Yes there is a set process in place for handling TLA claims, involving Soldier, Housing Division, Ederle Inn and local hotel participation.

Ederle Inn – Several years ago this community decided to develop a system, which would lessen any initial financial burden on servicemembers and families by authorizing direct payment of Ederle Inn bills for authorized TLA. Servicemembers authorized TLA are given an authorization document, by the Housing Division, which they present to the Ederle Inn clerk. The Ederle Inn, as necessary, will prepare payment vouchers containing the names and room costs of those servicemembers that have 10 days lodging (or less if it is their final TLA) and forward to the Housing Division within two working days.

Housing will check each person, issue approval statements

for each and forward the package to finance within three

The Finance Office will then pay the total cost of the voucher to the Ederle Inn to cover all of the room costs. Within three working days, finance will also individually calculate the meals and incidental expenses for each servicemember and input this information for payment on the servicemember's next Leave and Earning Statement. Any additional costs such as, telephone, room service, or pet fees, are paid directly by the servicemember to the hotel.

This system in place saves the Soldier from having to pay out of pocket, up front, hundreds of dollars and then await

Local Hotels – Soldiers authorized TLA who stay in local hotels, due to lack of availability in the Ederle Inn, work under a slightly different system.

As the reimbursement to the local hotel is not a reimbursement to another government agency, finance cannot currently perform direct payments, so the servicemember must actively participate in obtaining the reimbursement. Servicemembers authorized TLA who have obtained a Statement of Non-availability from the Ederle Inn, are authorized the use of a commercial hotel off post.

Every 10 days, or earlier if checking out of the hotel, the servicemember obtains either a paid bill, or an invoice, from the hotel and takes it to the Housing Division. It should be noted that the Housing Division has established good relations with most of the local hotels and they are usually willing to provide a *proforma*, invoice, without first paying the bill, which allows servicemembers to obtain reimbursement and then pay

Once the servicemember brings the invoice to housing housing will approve it on the spot, allowing the servicemember to go to finance and receive a payment for the cost of the

This means that the same day they obtain the invoice, or at the most the following working day, they have the money to return to the hotel and pay the bill, if not previously paid.

Finance will at this time also input the amount due for meals and incidental expenses, which will be reimbursed with normal pay and appear on the LES.

TLA defined - Temporary Lodging Allowance is a reimbursable expense to compensate for occupancy of temporary lodging at personal expense, together with a portion of meals and incidental expenses, to offset living expenses for servicemembers and families while awaiting permanent quarters or upon departure from their permanent duty station.

Soldier briefing—All incoming military personnel are briefed on the eligibility and procedures of TLA at the time of inprocessing, and Housing Division personnel are available to answer any questions and check on status of TLA claims.

Requesting TLA Payment - Normally servicemembers must present an invoice or a statement for lodging expenses incurred when requesting TLA payment. If the servicemember is otherwise qualified, payment may be made when the

servicemember presents an invoice after completing each 10day period, or for a lesser period if it is the final claim.

Conclusion – We have tried in creating these two systems to provide a way for servicemembers to not have to pay up front the considerable sums and to receive the balance of their TLA reimbursement in a timely and convenient manner with their normal paycheck. Date of credit to a servicemember's LES will depend on the date documentation is processed and the cut-off dates for pay cycles.

Issue: My daughter was given a medical referral in March to see an optometrist, but all the appointments were booked. I called back in July for August and the doctor was out because his wife was due and was going to take some time off. I have called every month since then and still no appointment. Now my daughter has to go to school and deal with headaches and get pulled out of school for the appointment (if I can finally get one). The clinic should back up referrals. Appointments need to be filled in an orderly fashion. Referrals should be able to get an appointment.

Response from the Health Clinic - Vicenza: The clinic opens optometry appointments 30 days out, and those appointments fill up quickly. In response to patient requests for a longer booking period, we began in March opening appointments 90 days out. Unfortunately, our no-show rate increased to 25 percent from 10 percent under the 90-day window, so we returned to a 30-day window.

The clinic provides hundreds of evaluations to students during school physicals and annual visual screenings. A referral involving an immediate need for care is tracked by our staff and the patient does get an appointment.

Due to the many factors that influence when patients (or arents) can attend medical appointments for routine referrals it would be impractical and inefficient to block appointments for referrals. We just could not accurately predict from weekto-week what the workload would be.

Children with urgent eye issues identified on school screenings should be given priority booking. We would ask that all patients who call for an appointment alert the clerk to medical conditions that need immediate attention.

Additionally, we have a patient representative who is available to answer patient concerns about coordination of care when the patient feels their needs have gone unanswered.

Due to the expected due date of our optometrist's wife, we made a decision to provide walk-in service for optometry during the middle weeks of August. The decision was made to avoid having to cancel appointments for patients and to provide support to our expectant family member.

We were unable to obtain a backfill optometrist for this period due to a critical shortage of optometrists Army-wide. We regret any inconvenience this has caused our patients.

Those patients whose routine need cannot be met within 30 days by our clinic can request an appointment with a Host Nation provider, at no expense to them, through the TRICARE office within the clinic. Our patient representative can assist the patient if that is their preferred resolution.

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DoD seeks civilian employee volunteers for Katrina relief

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – In light of the ongoing need for volunteers to support hurricane relief efforts in the gulf, the Defense Department is encouraging its federal civilian employees to consider participating.

In a Sept. 8 memo to department leaders, David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, urged DoD employees to offer their services, as long as it doesn't impact on their immediate defense mission.

In a related move, Chu announced DoD's participation in an emergency leave transfer program to help employees affected by Hurricane Katrina. That measure, authorized throughout the federal government by President Bush, will allow DoD civilian employees to donate unused annual leave to other federal civilian employees who need more time off from work due to the hurricane.

DoD components are establishing programs and are expected to begin seeking leave donors as well as requests for help soon.

In his memo regarding the volunteer program, Chu noted that

the Department of Homeland Security anticipates the need for 2,000 volunteers to help with the federal government's response and recovery efforts under way. As a result, he said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering federal civilian employees the opportunity to volunteer for 14 to 30-day deployments to affected areas to help support DoD efforts.

Volunteers will remain on the DoD payrolls and be will be in a temporaryduty status while performing their volunteer service, Chu said.

Mark Smith from the Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service said he expects the program to become an ongoing effort between DoD and FEMA, with ongoing volunteer rotations for the foreseeable future.

While encouraging employees to volunteer, Chu emphasized that they must receive their supervisor's approval before volunteering, and that their temporary absence from the workplace "cannot diminish or compromise service or support to our critical DoD mission."

Volunteers must go through their Defense Department component point of contact, not FEMA, to offer their services, Smith emphasized.

Details about both the leavedonation and volunteer programs are posted at the DoD Civilian Personnel Management Service's Web site, www.cpms.osd.mil, under the "Hurricane Katrina" link. The site also includes points of contact within DoD about where to apply for the volunteer program, Smith said.

All volunteers must be physically able to work outdoors all day in a disaster area, with long work hours under arduous conditions, officials said. They also must require no refrigeration for medications.

Skills particularly in demand are bilingual capabilities in all languages, a commercial driver's license, logistics capabilities and expertise in information technology, officials said.

Before deploying to the affected area, all volunteers will receive one day of training in Orlando, Fla.

The Army has set up the website www.army.mil/katrina/ index.html as a resource for more information.

Gift of Groceries can help military families displaced by Katrina

Defense Commissary Agency News Release

housands of American troops are involved in ■ relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Military families are also among those displaced by the disaster. Now a special link at http:// www.commissaries.com will connect those interested in helping military families with a "gift of groceries."

The donated gift certificates can be used to assist military families in purchasing groceries at the commissary while they are temporarily housed at other installations. Commissaries are a military benefit, providing groceries at cost to active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve families.

"Several organizations, including Air Force Aid Society, the USO and Fisher House Foundation already receive thousands of dollars in commissary gift certificates every year to help military families in need," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "In this case, Fisher House Foundation and Air Force Aid Society are in a position to distribute gift certificates to military families from the affected

"We are making it possible for people to earmark their donations for Katrina relief," said Mike Baskerville, vice president of CertifiChecks Inc. "The and click on the "Gift of Groceries" link.

link will stay up until the need has been met." The Gift of Groceries program is made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc. at no cost to DeCA or the federal government. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates to donate or give as gifts, but only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them.

Air Force Aid Society is assisting with displaced families in the southern United States. About 1,000 evacuees are at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and help is also needed at more than 10 other installations where evacuees are temporarily housed. Families at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., are already getting commissary gift certificates as they settle in, according to family support center officials.

"Thirty patients in their last trimester of pregnancy were relocated to Lackland Air Force Base [Texas] from Keesler [Air Force Base, Miss.]," said David Coker, executive director of Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House Foundation has constructed 33 comfort homes for military families who have loved ones being treated at military medical centers. "We are also helping at other installations and in other situations. For instance, residents at the Navy Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport [Miss.] are now living at the AFRH home in Washington, D.C."

To make a donation, visit www.commissaries.com

TERRORISTS

Coalition, Afghan forces raid compound

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By Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie

20th Public Affairs Detachment

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Kill or capture suspected terrorist Sherbaz.

That was the mission for 31 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), and 32 Afghan National Army and Police members.

Intelligence had identified Sherbaz as a possible member of a cell specializing in setting up improvised explosive devices in the Paktika Province.

Before the mission, ANA soldier Katibullah said, "If he's hurting my people, he is dangerous and must be arrested. It will be done.'

Just before dawn, the group of Soldiers and policemen drove up a shallow river bed in their Humvees and trucks and surrounded the base on the hill of Sherbaz's compound. Then they hiked around and up the back side of the hill to avoid

They wanted to hit Sherbaz's compound early so they could catch them off guard and still sleeping, said Sgt. Shane Wilson, 1-508th, Inf (Abn).

After reaching the first collection of houses, the group split into three teams. Team One headed north, Team Two went south, and Team Three searched from west to east. Team One saw activity first. They reported two men had fled and were headed in Team Two's direction.

Teams Two and Three moved to intercept the men. They chased the suspects through two crop fields to a dry river bed east of the compound.

"They were walking when we reached the river bed at the bottom of the hill, but then they started to run when they saw us," said Pfc. Santiago Carbonell, 1-508th, Inf (Abn). "We took off and chased them down about 300 meters and back up the hill."

During the pursuit, Team One reported they had captured Sherbaz's brother. He was willing to lead them to Sherbaz. After regrouping and securing the river bed, Teams Two and Three linked up with Team One in the northeast corner of the compound.

"His brother gave him up," said Staff Sgt. Rick Reibsome, platoon sergeant for the 3rd platoon, Combat Wombats, Alpha Co., 1-508th, Inf (Abn).

Sherbaz's time was up, he said.

When Team One found the suspected terrorist in his personal residence, he surrendered without resistance. An initial search of Sherbaz and his brother's homes yielded ammunition, bayonets, and magazines. Further searching revealed a shotgun hidden in a pile of hay, rifles hidden under clothing in a closet and bandoliers hidden in locked chests throughout the two homes.

After questioning, Sherbaz and his brother were handed over to ANP custody at the Orgun-E jail for further processing. The ANA collected illegal items seized during the raid to be destroyed

The level of teamwork displayed during this successful mission is vital to the growth of Afghanistan as a nation, said ANP policeman Azam Khan.

He also said the mission shows how Coalition and Afghan forces are striving for the same goal.

"We do this together, because we all want to build up Afghanistan," said Khan. "We want to bring freedom, safety and peace to our country."

Othtlook

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Club offers fun activities, gives back to community



A Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians' Club member registers in one of the mini clubs such as Bunko, bowling, or cooking offered by VMSCC.

"This year I plan on participating too," she said at the welcome meeting held at the chapel Aug. 31. "It is a lot of fun, and they support many activities for the community."

If you are interested in more information on the VMSCC, contact their president, Karen Huffman, at 0444-610-722 or 348-753-2617 or via email at karen.huffman@us.army.mil

Story and photos by Laura Kreider *Outlook Staff*

The Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians' Club is a private organization which hosts several activities and programs every month.

Some of their activities include the annual bazaar, monthly luncheons, mini clubs, and managing the post Thrift Store.

"The club not only has fun but also raises money to donate back to the community," said Karen Huffman, VMSCC president.

"Last year, between the profits of Festa Italia Bazaar and our Thrift Shop, we were able to donate more than \$92,000 to scholarship recipients and various organizations," she continued.

Some of those organizations were the scouting organizations on post, the American Red Cross, the Post Library, Army Community Services, Soldiers' Theatre, the Mako Sharks swim team, the Post Chapel, Family Readiness Groups and the post schools.

"We have two goals," said Nadia Pontif, who has been the VMSCC publicity chairperson the past three years. "One goal is for spouses and civilians to be able to meet, but we also raise money for the community, and that is our main goal."

According to Pontif, the Thrift Shop is the VMSCC's biggest fundraiser, and it needs volunteers to be operational.

The shop is open twice a week on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We always need volunteers to sort, price and display both

consigned and donated items,' said Huffman.

And volunteers are also what the club is looking for to help with the annual bazaar.

Based on previous experiences, at least 200 people have helped with this big event.

This year, the Festa Italia Bazaar will take place on Saturday and Sunday and be held in two locations: the Teen Center and the Luna Bubble.

"There will be 42 vendors from all over Europe," said Huffman. "Several FRGs and private organizations will operate food booths during the bazaar as fundraisers."

The Thrift Store and the bazaar are not the only activities of the VMSCC, they also offers monthly programs and mini clubs.

"There are a lot of mini clubs within the club. There is bowling, cooking, quilting and reading," said Pontif.

The VMSCC also holds a luncheon every third Wednesday of the month.

"The luncheon is open and members can bring new people as the guests for the day," said Pontif.

"The club is just really fun, and now, especially with the deployment, it gives people something more to do," said Pontif. "It is also a club for everybody. I think a lot of people are shy about joining clubs, but this is open for everybody; officers' spouses, enlisted Soldiers' spouses, civilians' spouses, civilians who work on post, Italians and Americans."

If you are interested in joining the VMSCC, membership is accepted at any time. People can pick up a membership application at the Thrift Shop and drop off the completed application, with a \$15 check payable



The assistant manager and cashier help customers at the Thrift Shop. Anyone interested in finding out more information about the VMSCC should stop by or call the Thrift Shop at 634-7460.

to VMSCC, to the Thrift Shop. Or, MPS the application and fee to VMSCC Membership c/o Deb O'Brien, CMR 427 Box 3676, APO, AE,09630.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about the VMSCC, should stop by or call the Thrift Shop at 634-7460, call Karen Huffman at 0444-610-722 or 348-753-2617, or contact her via email at karen.huffman@us.army.mil

Upcoming VMSCC events:

- The Thrift Shop has an endof-the-season bag sale from today through Thursday.
- The first luncheon of the new season is on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Post Chapel.
- The Festa Italia Bazaar will be held Saturday and Sunday in the Teen Center and Luna Bubble.
- The Third Annual Dessert Contest will take place at the Post Chapel on Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Local VFW supports deployed Soldiers, active in community

By Tom BuffingtonPost 8862
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Special to the Outlook

Ever wonder who those men and women are handing out red poppies at the PX or walking around post in white uniform shirts and brown hats with the Cross of Malta? They are members of Post 8862 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW.

A strong supporter of the military and civilian community in Vicenza since its formation in 1990, Post 8862 started out with 25 charter members and has grown to over 1,000 members today, including several hundred of our SETAF Soldiers now serving in Afghanistan.

Through the years, membership has included corporals through generals, GS-3 to GS-15, male, female, active duty, Reservists, retirees and separated Soldiers, all services, all ages, ethnic groups and nationalities, who today live in Italy and around the world.

The threads that bind them are having served overseas during periods of combat, hazardous duty, hostile fire or imminent danger, or participation in a campaign or expeditionary operation, the motivation to assist veterans, and a desire to maintain a link with the Vicenza military community.



Vicenza Soldiers in Afghanistan say thanks to VFW Post 8862 for their phone cards.

The VFW has been active, often behind the scenes with little or no fanfare, in supporting almost every event, activity and organization in and around the caserma.

In 2003, they adopted seven units: SETAF, 173d Airborne Brigade; 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne); 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne); 14th Transportation Battalion; 509th Signal Battalion; and 22nd ASG.

In this capacity, while Soldiers were deployed to Iraq, the local VFW provided over 3,000 phone-cards worth \$60,000, 3,000 care packages with everything from necessities to snacks, Christmas and Thanksgiving cards and dozens of boxes of books, videos and CD's. When the Soldiers returned, the local VFW provided several thousand dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours for the celebrations and reintegration.

Today Post 8862 is a major supporter of our troops down range in Afghanistan and with the rear detachments. They have already procured \$70,000 in phone cards, sponsor a continuous book drive, sponsored a clothing and shoe drive for the Soldiers to distribute, distributed 3,000 care packages, visited wounded Soldiers at Landstuhl, purchased several clocks for the Fisher House, were a major sponsor with AFN for the Deployed Family Day festival, and are gearing up to send Christmas greetings.

Around the caserma, Post 8862 has long sponsored the dining facility with wine for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years meals. Post 8862 provides cash awards and certificates to the Soldiers and NCOs of the Quarter and Year, provides the honor guard and funeral detail for non-active duty funerals throughout the area, represent the veterans at memorial services on post and at the American National Cemeteries in Florence, Rome, France, and Belgium, as well as numerous memorial events and ceremonies sponsored by Italian veterans organizations.

Post 8862 also is a major contributor in the community. They provided the JROTC with new drill team helmets, flags, and the Vicenza High School flagpole. They participate in the various dining outs, field trips, and award medals and certificates to superior cadets. They sponsor the annual youth essays "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriots Pen" for all DODDS schools in Italy and Spain.

They have purchased new flags and flagpoles for the scouts, donated money to the Booster Club, volunteered thousands of hours with the retiree association, American Red



Vicenza Post 8862 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars represent American veterans in parades and memorial services on Caserma Ederle and throughout Italy. (Photos provided by Post 8862, VFW)

Cross and other relief organizations.

Members have provided emergency funds for Soldiers and retirees, provided transportation to and from medical appointments and airports, and just this week raised \$4,000 for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

On the National level, the VFW is the leader in lobbying Congress for better quality of life, pay raises, increased living allowances, veterans and disability benefits, and other Soldier and veteran's issues.

If you are interested in joining the VFW or signing up your spouse, remember that while you are a member of Post 8862 in Vicenza, you are part of a national organization. Your membership is honored at all of the thousands of VFW locations when you travel and you can transfer your membership to your new duty station or home town when the time comes.

If you have questions or desire to become a member, contact Mike Tougaw at 634-7280, Ron Reynolds at 634-7451, or Tom Buffington at 634-7857.

Sept. 20, 2005

A Russian trip back in time

Soldiers' Theatre prepares to perform folktales inspired by Tolstoy

Story and photos By Laura Kreider Outlook Staff

s their last show in town, Allen and Karen Ebert are co-directing "The Tolstoy Story Play" inspired by Tolstoy's telling of Russian folktales a century ago.

"We wanted to do something fun, creative and yet very challenging for the actors and directors," explained Karen Ebert, who dedicated many hours as a volunteer at Soldiers' Theatre on Caserma Ederle in the past three years.

"This award-winning storytheatre play is a celebration of the glory of stories in a style that is at the same time primitive and sophisticated, entertaining, accessible and surprising," she said.

The play is an ensemble piece with a fresh blend of vaudeville, comedy, realism, farce and poetry.

"It is composed of stories, and it clearly illustrates the essence of story itself as a human survival tool and art [form]. Its theme is that each person's real life is in itself a complex story, made of overlapping, interwoven



Allen Ebert and his wife Karen are co-directing "The Tolstoy Story Play," as their last show here in Vicenza.

"We have spent three years here," said Allen Ebert, 22nd Area Support Group entertainment director, while getting ready for one of the last rehearsals of the play.

"We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here in Vicenza," said Karen, who was one of the community members this past April chosen as Exceptional Volunteers for 2005. "The people in this community are wonderfully supportive of Soldiers' Theatre and Army Entertainment, and that has been an incredible thing for us to experience."

Hundreds of volunteers have worked with both of them over the past three years to put together many theatre projects.

Some of these projects were recognized such as "Selkie," which participated in last year's Army-Europe One-Act Play Festival, held annually in Heidelberg, Germany, and brought home four awards.

This year, Allen, Karen, and all the cast of their last play will go to Heidelberg again to represent Vicenza because "it shows that the military communities around Europe have a lot of hidden talent and the atmosphere is really exciting and fun to be around," according to Allen.

Karen explained that Soldiers' Theatre would not be able to set such a high standard within Army Entertainment Europe if it weren't for all the dedicated people who supported them during their period spent in Vicenza.

"There are too many special moments that we have been fortunate enough to experience here and cannot choose just one," said Karen. "We have never had the privilege to work in such a giving community." The Eberts will be moving back home to Madison, Wis., in November and will continue working within the entertainment field.

The new Vicenza entertainment director, Ross Daniels, and his wife, Bonnie, will arrive in mid-October. The Daniels have been very involved with the Vicenza community in the past and have served as the Vicenza entertainment director in previous years.

Actors run through a rehearsal of the Soldiers' Theatre upcoming play, "The Tolstoy Story Play," which they will perform Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1 and 2 at the Youth Services Teen Center Pavilion.

stories, Ebert said.

According to one of the seven storytellers, Rosie Malone, the play is a fast-paced whirlwind of a 40-minute period.

"It is much more rigorous than any other play I have performed in, but it is a blast!" she said.

he two directors expressed how the storytellers have been very passionate about the literature – throwing their whole body and voice into creating characters ranging from wolves to queens to pizza-makers.

"The play is extremely highenergy with all seven actors on stage continuously for 40 minutes, constantly creating characters before your eyes," Ebert added.

Tracy Jordan, who is performing for the first time with Soldiers' Theatre, said "being apart of 'The Tolstoy Story Play' is truly amazing.

"In the Army I am on call for 24 hours and this experience allows me to share my other talents, which allows me to appreciate the opportunity of being versatile," said Jordan.

She also appreciated the atmosphere created by actors and directors.

"Working with Karen and Allen [Ebert] – two outstanding directors – continue to remind me what outstanding leadership is," said Jordan enthusiastically.

Performances are scheduled for Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1 and 2. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. at the Youth Services Teen Center Pavilion across from the Ederle Inn.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth age 17 and younger, and \$5 per ticket for groups of 10 or more.

To purchase tickets stop by Soldiers' Theatre between noon and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or call the Soldiers' Theatre box

office hotline at 634-7755 or 0444- for the annual

71-7755 to reserve Will Call tickets.

Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the performances.

After performing in Vicenza, "The Tolstoy Story Play" will be traveling to Heidelberg, Germany,

for the annual U.S. Army Europe One Act Festival.

Performing as storytellers in the play are: Bizzy Buffington, Andrea Fantacone, Sgt. Michael Heyer, Sgt. First Class Tracy Jordan, Jamie Kamiya, Rosie Malone and Kelly Martin.

BNL employee retires after 31 years of service to SETAF

22nd Area Support Group Commander Col. Virgil S. L. Williams, right, poses for a photo after presenting a coin to Piero Rizzi, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro employee, Sept. 15, in recognition of his service to the SETAF community. Rizzi was hired by BNL in June 1973 and less than one year later moved from the main branch located in downtown Vicenza to SETAF. He will retire at the end of September after 32 years of service, of which 31 have been with SETAF.

"I remember many episodes that happened while working here. One of them was the abduction of [Brig. Gen. James] Dozier in 1982," said Rizzi after the ceremony that took place at BNL. "During my long career on post I have never encountered problems working with the American community. I've always tried to take care of customers with kindness, and I received the same kindness in return as well."

"It is difficult to describe how it feels at the end of this incredible adventure of two colleagues who have spent more than a quarter of a century together at work," said Luciano Prestipino, Rizzi's colleague for the past 28 years. "Piero is going away, but our friendship will last for a long, long time." (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

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Out & About

Events in and around Vicenza

Ceramics - On Saturday in the Salone degli Zavatteri, Basilica Palladiana, in Vicenza's main square there will be a Ceramiche Vicentine

exhibition. The ceramics made during the period between 1930-1980 are on loan from the ceramic museum in Nove. There are more that 400 pieces.

Open everyday except Monday from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. until Nov. 27. Entrance fee is 2 euro.

Artisans and handicrafts – the annual event of Artisans on the Road will be held on Sunday downtown Vicenza on Corso Fogazzaro from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. See carpenters, artists, bakers and other artisans at work.

This street is a main lateral street off of Corso Palladio.

Handicraft exhibition-market in the town of Marano Vicentino. 22 kilometers from Vicenza, the 33rd Handicraft Exhibition and Market will take place Thursday - Monday. Held in a large covered area on Viale Europa, there will be over 150 stalls

to browse through. On Sunday it is open from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. On other days it is open in the afternoon only. Entrance fee is

Baccala Festival in Sandrigo -

This festival is on now through Sunday evening. On Friday try Baccala (cod) Risotto. It will be served starting at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday at 6 p.m. the menu will include Baccala alle Vicentino. On Sunday try Baccala alle Vicentino at 11 a.m. At 5 p.m. there will be entertainment for children. At 10:30 p.m. there will be a fireworks display. Each evening hosts a different music group.

Art - Last days to visit the art exhibition Da Pablo Picasso a Virgilio Guidi being held in the Le Carceri Museum in the city of Asiago. On display are works of art by Picasso, Chagall, Dali, Warhol, Renoir, Guidi and others.

Open weekdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. Open weekends from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The exhibit closes on Sunday.

Entrance fee is 5 euro.

A romantic dinner

A medieval style dinner called, A cena con Giulietta e Romeo, a dinner with Juliet and Romeo, will take place in the Bevilacqua Castle, province of Verona, on Nov. 12 at 8:30 p.m. Cost per person is 35 euro. Children ages 6 to 10 years cost 20 euro. Children younger than 6 years are free.

Reservations can be made by calling 0442-93655. You will have to confirm via fax at 0442-649-420 with your name and address. If you have difficulties speaking Italian over the phone ask an Italian friend to help. The castle is approximately 31 miles from Vicenza.

Street games in Verona

The city of Verona will be like one big playground for both children and grownups for three days during Tocati, Your Turn. It runs Friday starting at 4 p.m. through Sunday.

The international street games festival will be set up in an area free of traffic and cars and will involve 29 games and numerous tournaments for teams from Italy and around the

Most of the events will be taking place in the historical center near the Piazza delle Erbe. There will be food stands for children and adults alike. For an idea of times, what to find and where, visit the website www.tocati.it, in Italian only.

Venice Marathon

The 20th Venice Marathon, which is flat and basically downhill, takes place on Oct. 23 and has a start time of 7:30 a.m. in the town of Stra, province of Venice.

The marathon will take you along the River Brenta in front of the Palladian Villas of the area. The runners arrive in Venice via the Liberty Bridge, which links the mainland to the city.

After crossing a floating bridge 400 feet long over the Grand Canal which leads to St. Mark's Square, runners reach the Riva dei Sette Martiri, where the finishing line is

Full information on who can participate and booking can be made at www.venicemarathon.it

By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Ferrara hot-air balloon festival

The city of Ferrara's Balloon Festival welcomes international pilots to the Parco Urbano this weekend.

Visitors can take part in various competitions and the most keen can line up for the chance to take a flight. Around 20 hot-air balloons engage in the so-called fox-hunting challenge, where one balloon is released in advance to the chased by all the others.

On both days a village will set up at 8 a.m. in the park with gastronomic stalls, which will be open from noon-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-10:30 p.m. There will also be stalls selling air sport equipment.

For the full program and directions in English visit www.ferrarainfo.com

International sprint kite rally

There will be an exhibition of acrobatic kites on the public beach of Pinarella in the town of Cervia this weekend. Many specialties such as jumping, buggy, and kite surfing will be included. See the kites from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The town of Cervia, which is near Ravenna, is approximately two hours from Vicenza.

Parma: Calling all collectors

The autumn edition of Parma's important fair dedicated to collectors of all genres, tastes, and interests, will be held from Saturday to Oct. 2. Called Mercanteinfiera, this 24th International Trade-Fair of modernism, antiques, arts and design exhibit, offers more than a thousand exhibitors, divided into sections dedicated to furniture, china, books, jewelry, silver, memorabilia, toys, and more, in what the organizers describe as a veritable "magic chest" of collectable items.

The fair is open from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. every day. Full information is available on www.fiere.parma.it, in Italian only, where you can also get an online view of some of the objects. Entrance fee to the exhibit/ market is 9.50 euro.

Now Showing=

Caserma Ederle Theater

Ouscilla Edelle Illeatei		
Sept. 20	Closed	
Sept. 21	Rebound (PG)	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	Rebound (PG)	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	Stealth (PG-13)	7 p.m.
	High Tension (R)	10 p.m.
Sept. 24	Fantastic Four (PG-13)	2 p.m.
	High Tension (R)	7 p.m.
	Stealth (PG-13)	10 p.m.
Sept. 25	Stealth (PG-13)	2 p.m.
	Fantastic Four (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Closed	
Sept. 27	Closed	
Sept. 28	The Island (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	The Island (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sept. 30	Dukes Of Hazzard (PG-13)	7 p.m.
	The Devil's Reject (R)	10 p.m.
	Camp Darby Theater	
Sept. 23	The Island (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	The Devil's Reject (R)	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Bad News Bears (PG-13)	3 p.m.
	30.0 (. 2 .0)	

Movie Synopsis

STEALTH - Josh Lucas, Jessica Biel - The Navy develops a fighter jet piloted by an artificial intelligence computer. The jet is placed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific to learn combat manuevers from the human pilots aboard. But when the computer of its own, it's the humans who are charged with stopping it before it incites a

THE ISLAND - Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson. Lincoln is a resident of a seemingly utopian but contained facility in the mid 21st century. Like all of the inhabitants of this carefully controlled environment, Lincoln hopes to be chosen to go to the "The Island" - reportedly the last uncontaminated spot on the planet. But Lincoln soon discovers that everything about his existence is a lie. He and all of the other inhabitants of the facility are actually human clones whose only purpose is to provide "spare parts" for their original human counterparts.

REBOUND - Martin Lawrence, Wendy Raquel. Coach Roy Robinson once was college basketball's top mastermind. But lately his attentions have been on his next endorsements, not on his next game. What's more, Roy's temper has run amuck, leading to his being banned from college ball until he can demonstrate compliance – in other words, not explode every time he walks onto the court. Roy waits and waits; for a suitable coaching offer, but he receives only one: the Mount Vernon Junior High School Smelters basketball squad.

THE DEVIL'S REJECT - Sid Haig, Bill Moseley - The unthinkable horror and chaos continues a few weeks after the events depicted in "House of 1000 Corpses," as the murderous Firefly family is forced on the lam after a bloody showdown at their home. With their story all over the news, the Firefly family continues their soulless killing spree, while Sheriff John - hell-bent on avenging his brother's murder - looks to track them down for one last horrifying confrontation.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2. The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time. Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Sharks start season with splash

By Tom Buffington

Special to the Outlook

Eight swim teams from all throughout Europe converged on the Caserma Ederle pool Sept. 8. Over 200 swimmers, meet officials, volunteers, family members and fans turned out for the first big swim meet of the

The Vicenza Mako Sharks, coached by Jane Higgins, Cheryl Canipe and Amanda Orduna, almost pulled off the upset, barely finishing second behind the perennial powerhouse Naples, and ahead of Sigonella, Aviano, Ramstein, Hoenfehls, Bamberg and Lakenheath.

Forty-five swimmers from Vicenza competed in individual races and team medleys. A record 17 new Mako Sharks competed in their very first

Nine Mako Sharks achieved minimum qualifying times for the European Championships later in the season. The qualifiers were Bryan Febbo, Jonathon Higgins, Taylor Higgins, Lindsey McCann, Steve McCrory, Savannah Owens, Tiffany Saddler, Destiny Schendel and John Williams.

The next swim meet will be Oct. 2 in Naples, with the next home meet in Vicenza on Nov. 6.

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Viva America

Hispanic Americans serve proudly in Korean War

U.S. Army Center of Military History

hen the Korean War broke out, Hispanic Americans again answered the call to duty as they, their brothers, cousins, and friends, had done in World War II. Many of the Hispanic Soldiers who fought in Korea were members of the all-Hispanic U.S. Army unit to serve in the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment.

The 65th Infantry Regiment

On Aug. 25, 1950, the Korean War was two months old when the U.S. 3d Infantry Division's all-Hispanic 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers," embarked on two transports in Puerto Rico, passed through the Panama Canal, and sailed directly for Korea.

The regiment was named after the Borinqueneers, one of the original Indian tribes that inhabited Puerto Rico. Many members of the 65th were direct descendants of that tribe.

The 65th disembarked Sept. 23 at the port city of Pusan on the Korean Peninsula's southern tip, where U.S. forces had been holding the Pusan Perimeter against the invading North Korean Peoples Army.

Sent into action immediately, the 65th took part in the U.S. breakout and drive to the north. Following the surprise landings at Inchon, U.S. and other United Nations forces drove deep into the mountains of North Korea.

In late October 1950, a huge Chinese army entered the war. The 8th U.S. Army was overrun, and the U.S. 1st Marine Division, with attached U.S. and British Army units, was surrounded by an enemy force estimated to be four Chinese armies at Hagaru-ri, near the lower end of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir.

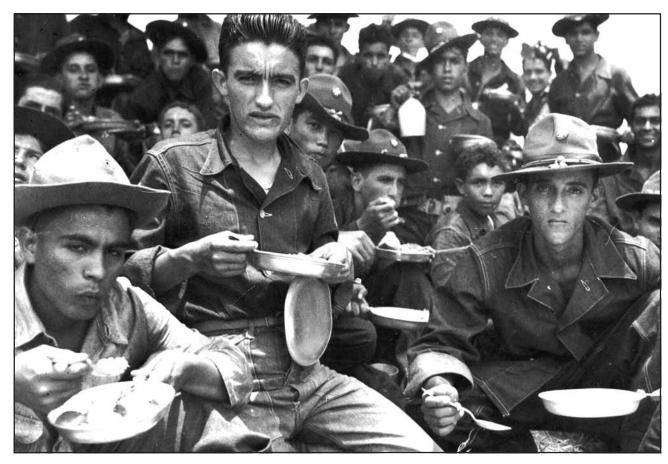
In one of the greatest fighting retreats in history, the outnumbered Marines battled their way southeast to the coast.

The 65th Infantry Regiment, along with other elements of the 3d Infantry Division, was assigned to protect the 1st Marine Division's withdrawal from Hagaru-ri and later the perimeter around Hungnam Harbor as United Nations forces evacuated the area aboard troopships. The 65th and other remaining elements of the 3d Infantry Division sailed from Hungnam on Christmas Eve, 1950.

The men of the 65th landed in Pusan, as they had five months before, and again fought their way northward. Late January 1951 found the regiment below the South Korean



A painting depicting the 65th Infantry Regiment, *The Borinqueneers*, in South Korean, February, 1951.



Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment take a moment to eat after training all day at Salinas, Puerto Rico, in August, 1941.

capital of Seoul, under orders to take two hills being held by the Chinese 149th Division.

The assault began on Jan. 31 and took three days. On the morning of the third day, with the top of the hills within reach, two battalions of the 65th fixed bayonets and charged straight at the enemy positions. The Chinese fled. The regiment is credited with capturing 2,086 enemy soldiers and killing 5,905.

During their service in Korea, the men of the 65th Infantry Regiment won four Distinguished Service Crosses and 125 Silver Stars

"The Borinqueneers" also were awarded the American Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Many other Hispanic American Soldiers saw fierce action in Korea, where battles were fought in some of the most mountainous terrain in the world and many of the bitterest engagements occurred during winter months when Soldiers suffered from extremely cold temperatures, snow, and ice. For their exceptional courage, three Hispanic American Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez, a member of Company G, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his selfless action that occurred on May 31, 1951, near Wontong-ni, South Korea. His platoon, in defensive positions on Hill 420, came under ruthless attack by a numerically superior force accompanied by heavy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire which inflicted numerous casualties on the platoon. His comrades were forced to withdraw due to lack of ammunition but Hernandez, although wounded in an exchange of grenades, continued to deliver deadly fire

into the ranks of the onrushing enemy soldiers until a ruptured cartridge rendered his rifle inoperative. Immediately leaving his position, Hernandez rushed the enemy armed only with rifle and bayonet. Fearlessly engaging the foe, he killed six of the enemy before falling unconscious from grenade, bayonet, and bullet wounds, but his heroic action momentarily halted the enemy advance and enabled his unit to counterattack and retake the lost ground.

Corporal Benito Martinez, a member of Company A, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his sacrifice in an action that took place on Sept. 6, 1952, near Sataeri, South Korea. While manning a listening post forward of the main line of resistance, his position was attacked by a hostile force of reinforced company strength. In the bitter fighting which ensued, the enemy infiltrated the defensive perimeter and, realizing that encirclement was imminent, Martinez elected to remain at his post in an attempt to stem the onslaught. In a daring defense, he raked the attacking troops with crippling fire, inflicting numerous casualties. Although contacted by sound power phone several times, he insisted that no attempt be made to rescue him because of the danger involved. Soon thereafter, the hostile forces rushed the emplacement, forcing him to make a limited withdrawal with only a Browning automatic rifle and pistol to defend himself. After a courageous six-hour stand and shortly before dawn, he called in for the last time stating that the enemy was converging on his position. His magnificent stand enabled friendly elements to reorganize, attack, and regain the key terrain.

Sergeant Joseph C. Rodriguez, a member of Company F, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action in a battle that ensued on May 21, 1951, near Munye-ri, Korea. Rodriguez, an assistant squad leader of the 2d Platoon, was participating in an attack against a fanatical hostile force occupying well-fortified positions on rugged commanding terrain. His squad's advance was halted within approximately 60 yards by a withering barrage of automatic weapons and small-arms fire from five emplacements directly to the front and also the right and left flanks, together with grenades which the enemy rolled down the hill toward the advancing troops. Fully aware of the odds against him, Sergeant Rodriguez leaped to his feet, dashed 60 yards up the fire-swept slope and, after he lobbed grenades into the first foxhole with deadly accuracy, ran around the left flank, silenced an automatic weapon with two grenades and continued his whirlwind assault to the top of the peak. He then wiped out two more foxholes and when he reached the right flank, tossed grenades into the remaining emplacement that destroyed the gun and annihilated its crew. Rodriguez's intrepid actions exacted a toll of 15 enemy dead and, as a result of his incredible display of valor, the defense of the opposition was broken, the enemy routed, and the strategic strong point secured.

Editor's note: The information in these articles and the photos were obtained from the U.S. Army Center of Military History website at www.army.mil/cmh.



Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment take cover in a cane field during training at Salinas, Puerto Rico, in November, 1941.